

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add claims 63-71 to this application:

63. A filtering face mask that comprises:  
(a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and  
(b) an exhalation valve that is attached to the mask body, the exhalation valve comprising:  
(1) a valve seat that comprises:  
(i) a seal surface;  
(ii) an orifice that is surrounded by the seal surface; and  
(2) a single flexible flap that has a stationary portion and a free portion and a peripheral edge that includes a stationary segment and a free segment, the stationary segment of the single flexible flap's peripheral edge being associated with the stationary portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the free segment of the peripheral edge being associated with the free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, the free portion also being located below the stationary portion when the filtering face mask is worn on a person, the flexible flap being positioned on the valve seat such that the flap is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith when a fluid is not passing through the orifice, the flexible flap also being secured to the valve seat at the stationary portion of the flap at two securement points.

64. The filtering face mask of claim 63, wherein the valve seat comprises a plastic that is molded into an integral one-piece body.

65. The filtering face mask of claim 64, wherein the valve seat has been made by an injection molding technique.

66. The filtering face mask of claim 63, wherein the valve seat further includes a flap retaining surface that has the two securement points being associated therewith.

67. The filtering face mask of claim 66, wherein the flap retaining surface is planar.

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68. The filtering face mask of claim 67, wherein the flexible flap is held in an abutting relationship to the flap-retaining surface.

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69. The filtering face mask of claim 68, wherein the flap-retaining surface is positioned on the valve seat to allow the flap to be pressed in an abutting relationship to the seal surface when a fluid is not passing through the orifice.

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70. The filtering face mask of claim 68, wherein the valve seat includes a seal ridge, onto which the seal surface is disposed, and a flap-retaining surface, onto which the two securement points are located, the flap-retaining surface being positioned on the valve seat to allow the flap to be pressed in an abutting relationship to the seal surface when a fluid is not passing through the valve.

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71. The filtering face mask of claim 70, wherein the two securement points are located outside a region encompassed by the orifice.